

Highlights

- ✓ Bailiff and security service is privatized, and the budgeted amounts are based on recent contacts.
- ✓ Funding is included for a new Integrated Voice Response (IVR) system, which will improve access to Municipal Court information by customers using the telephone.
- ✓ The Wichita Intervention Program continues to offer alternative incarceration for first time drunk driving offenders. The budget includes increased contractual costs for this program, offset by higher program fees.
- ✓ The vacant Administrative Assistant to the Director position has been eliminated.

Municipal Court exists to impartially uphold the community's laws and facilitate the interests of justice for all citizens in a thorough and fair manner.

Overview

Municipal Court is organized into the Court Clerk's Office and Probation. The Clerk's Office is responsible for processing transactions related to court and traffic records. The Probation Office assists judges in defendant evaluation and monitoring of prisoners and probationers.

Municipal Court operates three traditional courtrooms. In addition, a video court is used to arraign prisoners from the County jail via a video connection. Hearings for traffic violations are held in an Administrative Traffic Court. Environmental cases are heard in a Neighborhood Court rotated among the Police substations. Specialized dockets have been established for driving under the influence (DUI), criminal, domestic violence and traffic offenses.

Finance and Operations

Municipal Court is responsible for collecting court-imposed fines, fees and penalties. These include court fines, traffic fines and fees, diversion fees, court costs, warrant fees and other revenues. The revenues offset a portion of the costs for adjudication, prosecution and enforcement efforts of Municipal Court, the Law Department and the Police Department. A private agency is utilized for aggressive collection of fines and fees.

Selected Service Level Measures –Court					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cases Filed	33,733	31,617	34,626	35,670	36,000
Criminal cases	7,950	7,620	7,691	7,700	7,800
Traffic cases	15,689	14,158	15,911	16,000	16,500
Domestic Violence cases	4,071	4,398	4,320	4,400	4,400
Environmental Court cases	1,250	1,656	1,460	1,700	1,700
DUI cases	2,290	2,191	1,864	2,000	2,000
Administrative cases	2,483	1,594	3,380	3,400	3,400
Cases Disposed	35,515	35,083	35,217	35,990	36,000

Municipal Court functions are included in the Court Clerk Division. This includes docket clerks and judges who staff court rooms; customer service clerks who assist citizens either on the telephone or in-person; file clerks who assist in general docket preparation and file processing and other positions that support the general administration of the Court.

The City has invested heavily in technology upgrades to improve the efficiency of court staff. These improvements have focused on reducing paper flow, including file retrieval requirements. Automation changes include the replacement of the public safety system and the implementation of an interactive voice response system. The integrated public safety system offers a centralized database to be shared and utilized by Police, Prosecution and Court. The system includes capabilities to utilize bar code and drivers' license scanning, imaging and the Internet. By imaging court materials, retrieval can occur simultaneously for multiple users in Police, Law and Court, reducing file maintenance efforts and increasing efficiency. Court converted to this new system in 2003.

A new interactive voice response (IVR) system will be implemented for court customers. This system will improve the dissemination of court information and enhance the efficiency of the court clerical staff. An automated system will quickly direct callers to the appropriate information on their respective court case, or will provide generic information on the court process. Staff will continue to handle calls in which human assistance is necessary.

Public defenders are provided to serve indigent defendants through a contractual relationship. The costs for indigent defense are partially offset by a \$4 per case assessment and co-payments from the defendants. An estimated 10,000 cases area handled by public defenders annually.

A drug court was established in August 1995 and remains the only operating drug court in Kansas. The court operates under the philosophy that a court team can provide better opportunity for long-term changes in drug users. The goal is to break the recurring cycle of repeat offenders. The court works very closely with treatment providers in an attempt to tailor services to each defendant. New drug court software, implemented in 2002, consolidates defendants' information, providing the drug court team one centralized access point.

CITY OF WICHITA

The Probation Office includes eight probation officers and eight support staff. Staff monitors defendants sentenced to probation to ensure compliance of all requirements, performs pre-sentence investigations ordered by the judges, collects restitution and fingerprints defendants.

Four Service Officers and also included in the Probation Office. These positions are funded currently by the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. Prisoner transportation duties and video arraignment functions are the primary responsibilities of these staff.

The Probation Office is also responsible for managing the Wichita Intervention Program. This program provides alcohol education and intervention for eligible first-time defendants who

plead guilty to drunk driving. The program couples the state mandated 48 hours of incarceration with a strong programmatic intervention process in an effort to eliminate future offenses. The program is mostly privatized, with program fees that are charged to the defendant (\$250) offsetting all costs.

Selected Service Level Measures – Probation Office					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Drug Court Evaluations	N/A	622	458	600	600
Drug Court contacts	4,874	3,890	3,354	4,000	4,000
Number of Pre-sentence Investigations	2,306	2,183	1,722	2,000	2,000
Number of supervised Probation contacts	19,070	26,164	24,044	25,000	25,000

Municipal Court Budget Summary

	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2003 Revised	2004 Adopted	2005 Approved
Personal Services	3,024,517	3,246,315	3,224,468	3,304,884	3,326,920
Contractual Services	1,468,420	1,565,230	1,627,520	1,634,330	1,660,530
Commodities	72,309	89,480	90,510	86,730	89,980
Capital Outlay	0	8,750	7,400	0	0
Other	0	27,960	0	0	0
Total Local Expenditures	4,565,246	4,937,735	4,949,898	5,025,944	5,077,430
ADSAP	120,667	165,485	195,540	195,540	195,540
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	131,154	52,000	130,668	76,761	0
General Fund	4,313,425	4,720,250	4,623,690	4,753,790	4,881,890
Total Municipal Court Resources	4,565,246	4,937,735	4,949,898	5,025,944	5,077,430
Total full-time positions	70	70	69	69	69
Total part-time positions	31	31	29	29	29
Total FTE positions	72.25	72.25	70.75	70.75	70.75